gas victims. There is also a proposal to construct 520 bedded Kamla Nehru Hospital with modern laboratories and equipments in the campus of Hamidia Hospital. Many programmes for economic rehabilitation of gas victims, like disbursement of loans to the needy gas affected families under the Special Training and Employment Programmes for Urban Poor (STEPUP), programmes for assistance to gas affected women and children under ICDS projects etc. are being implemented. However, the Government of Madhya Pradesh is finalising a long term action plan for medical, economic, social and environmental rehabilitation.

Joint collaboration with Japan

2245. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Japanese private sector companies have expressed their willingness for greater participation in India's industrial development through joint collaboration and technological assistance; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to attract Japanese assistance in regard to India's industrial development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As a result of exchange of visits of industrial and business delegations and through the forum of Indo-Japanese Joint Business Council meetings arranged by FICCI and its counter-part in Japan, several areas of industries like electronics, food processing, oil seeds improvement, deep sea fishing, automobile ancillaries and pharmaceuticals have been identified, as having good prospects for cooperation.

Government have taken various liberalisation measures in the recent past to remove the irritants in the transfer of technology and foreign investment in India. This has generated a favourable climate for transfer of technology and investment. Proposals for joint collaborations, including those from Japanese entrepreneurs, are considered on merits within the parameters of National Policy for Foreign Investments in India with due regard to national priorities and interests.

Prices of automotive tyres

2246. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of automotive tyres are being increased frequently causing hardship to truck operators and leading to a general price rise;

(b) whether the tyre manufactures have suggested various measures for making the industry cost effective, viable and efficient; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the suggestions and the steps taken by Government to prevent further rise in tyre prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Tyre prices were increased by tyre manufacturers during the last three years as follows:—

March . . .	1985	8% to 9.5%
April-May .	1986	5%
July . . .	1987	7%

According to the tyre manufacturers, bus/truck tyre prices have been raised on account of increase in the costs of inputs.

(b) and (c) The suggestions are mainly with reference to reduction of incidence of taxation on tyres and for containing raw materials prices on tyres. There is no statutory control over the prices of raw materials required for the manufacture of tyres. As regards the incidence of taxation, in the 1984 budget,